

Claims

1. An internet web browser facility, said facility capable of identifying and obtaining data for a web page in response to a user instruction and processing the received data to generate and display the web page on a display screen connected thereto and characterised in that when the web page has been selected and the data is being received the reformatting of the displayed web page is controlled so as to occur only after a predetermined time has elapsed since the previous web page reformat and/or after a predetermined event has occurred.

2 An internet web browser facility according to claim 1 characterised in that by allowing the reformatting of the displayed web page to be stopped from occurring as the data is received so the use of the data processor is controlled.

3 An internet web browser facility according to claim 1 characterised in that the facility prevents the reformatting of the displayed page until a prefixed time interval has elapsed after the previous display page reformat.

4 An internet web browser facility according to claim 1 characterised in that when the first portion of data is received for a newly selected display page a reformat is carried out immediately to give the user the earliest possible indication of progress.

5 An internet web browser facility according to claim 1 characterised in that when an event occurs in the reception of data that would conventionally cause an immediate reformat of the web page the facility notes the highest y-coordinate point or

level in the displayed page that would be affected by the reformat and commences the time interval.

6 An internet web browser facility according to claim 5 characterised in that no page display reformatting occurs until predetermined time interval has elapsed.

7 An internet web browser facility according to claim 5 characterised in that a reformatting of the page display can occur during the time interval if all or a predefined proportion of data for the page is received during the time interval.

8 An internet web browser facility according to claim 7 characterised in that sufficient data is deemed to have been received when data which would allow changes to the web page to be achieved up to the previously noted highest y-coordinate point or level has been received.

9 An internet web browser facility according to claim 1 characterised in that when the time interval has elapsed or the entire data fetch is complete as required, the reformatting of the displayed page can occur and the parts of the page which need to be changed in response to the newly received data are reformatted.

10 A management system for the operation of an on screen page display which is generated from a user selected internet site, said system including a deferring system which prevents the web browser from reformatting pages during the reception of data each time the display page layout needs to change in response to a user selection characterised in that the web browser reformats at no more often than a predesignated time interval or when a

predetermined amount of the data for the new page has been received.

11 A management system according to claim 10 characterised in that when a new data event occurs that would normally cause an immediate page reformat, the browser takes note of the highest point in the page that would be affected and starts a time and no reformat occurs until a predesignated time elapses.

12. A management system according to claim 10 characterised in that the reformat is delayed for the duration of a predesignated time period from the occurrence of a user selection.

13. A management system according to claim 10 characterised in that the reformat is delayed until all data for the entire page is received.

14. A management system according to claim 10 characterised in that upon a user selection, the processor performs the data reception function only, for a predesignated period of time.

15. A management system according to any of the preceding claims characterised in that the system is incorporated in a processor of a broadcast data receiver which allows internet access.